Environmental clearance to Expressway Projects of Maharashtra

193. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Expressway projects to be set up on BOT basis, submitted by the Maharashtra Government, are pending environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the number and details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests received the following three proposals from Government of Maharashtra in September 1998 which are proposed to be set up on BOT basis: Mumbai-Talasari, Mumbai-Nasik, Mumbai-Mahad Expressways. Due to inadequate information, the proposals on Mumbai-Nasik and Mumbai-Mahad Expressway were closed in December 1999 and June 1999 respectively. In respect of Mumbai-Talasari though the project was closed in April 1999 due to inadequate information, clarifications were received in January 2000 and the file was reopened for further processing.

Pollution due to Anti-TB Drug

194. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large scale pollution of thionyl chloride vapours, sulphur dioxide, etc., is being caused by manufacture of Anti-TB drug Pyrazinamide from OPDA;

(b) what steps Government have taken to prevent such pollution, which is dangerous to life of human beings; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Anti-TB drug manufacturing units may emit